

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

**DANNEL MAURICE MITCHELL,
#R07374,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**WARDEN DENNISON,
JOHNSON,
EHTAN WILKE,
MS. SMOOT,
DR. DANIEL,
RN DEWAYNE,
RN CAROL,
and JOHN/JANE DOE,**

Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-00118-DRH

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

HERNDON, District Judge:

Plaintiff Dannel Mitchell is currently incarcerated at Western Illinois Correctional Center (“Western Illinois”). He filed this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for alleged deprivations of his constitutional rights at Shawnee Correctional Center. (Doc. 1). Along with the Complaint, Plaintiff filed a Motion for Leave to Proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP Motion”), in which he requested the Court’s permission to proceed without prepaying the full \$400.00 filing fee for this action. (Doc. 2). Before screening the Complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, the Court addressed Plaintiff’s eligibility to proceed IFP. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a).

Plaintiff previously “struck out” by filing numerous civil actions that were dismissed as being frivolous, malicious, or for failure to state a claim. Even so, he continued filing lawsuits without paying the filing fees for them. Plaintiff also failed to demonstrate that he was facing imminent danger of serious physical injury at the time he filed this suit. He was deemed ineligible to proceed IFP herein.

In an Order dated February 8, 2018, this Court denied Plaintiff's IFP Motion. (Doc. 6). The Court ordered him to pay the full filing fee of \$400.00 for this action, as well as the outstanding money owed for his previously filed¹ and other pending actions no later than March 8, 2018. *Id.* In the same order, the Court required Plaintiff to show cause by the same deadline why Plaintiff should not be restricted from filing any further actions in this Court while his outstanding fees remain unpaid.

The deadline has now passed. Plaintiff has made no payment toward the \$400.00 filing fee he owes in this case or, more broadly, the \$5,588.92 total he owes for all of the cases he has filed in this District, including this one.² Plaintiff has also failed to adequately respond to the Court's order to show cause, stating that he suffers from AIDS and AIDS-related dementia that makes it difficult for

¹ The Court noted in its Order Denying Plaintiff's IFP Motion (Doc. 6, p. 7) that Plaintiff's outstanding balance for lawsuits he filed in this District in 2016-17 is \$3,188.92. That amount does not include the money he owes for the cases he has filed in this District in 2018, which he is also required to pay.

² Plaintiff was directed to pay the filing fee in each of the pending cases he filed in this district in 2018. His latest deadline for payment was April 9, 2018 in Case No. 18-cv-122-MJR. This deadline, along with each of his other deadlines, has passed without payment from Plaintiff. For this reason, the Court anticipates that each of Plaintiff's pending 2018 cases will be dismissed, though dismissal of Case No. 18-cv-122-MJR remains forthcoming given the recent deadline.

him to understand the Court's many complicated procedures. (Doc. 7). However, this does not entitle Plaintiff to continue inundating this Court with frivolous, malicious, meritless, and/or duplicative lawsuits while paying no filing fees for them.

Because Plaintiff has not paid the outstanding fees he owes the Court and has failed to show cause why the Court should not restrict him from filing future documents until his fees are paid in full, this Court finds it necessary to so restrict Plaintiff. Clearly, monetary sanctions are not enough to deter Plaintiff from filing future claims with this Court, as he has accumulated \$5,588.92 in fees and has shown little to no effort to pay the debt. Thus, to simply add to that debt in an effort to cease Plaintiff's abuse of the Court is useless.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff is restricted from filing any new civil actions in this Court until such time as his outstanding filing fees of \$5,588.92 have been paid in full. This filing restriction does not extend to a notice of appeal from this Order, to the filing of any petition for a writ of habeas corpus (*which is deemed summarily dismissed if not otherwise addressed within 30 days of filing*), or to pleadings filed as a defendant in another criminal or civil case. Plaintiff may seek reconsideration of this Order by filing a motion in this Court *no earlier than* two years from the date of entry of this Order.

If Plaintiff wishes to appeal this Order, he may file a notice of appeal with this Court within thirty days of the entry of judgment. FED. R. APP. P. 4(a)(4). If Plaintiff does choose to appeal, he will be liable for the \$505.00 appellate filing fee

irrespective of the outcome of the appeal. *See* FED. R. APP. P. 3(e); 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2); *Ammons v. Gerlinger*, 547 F.3d 724, 725-26 (7th Cir. 2008); *Sloan v. Lesza*, 181 F.3d 857, 858-59 (7th Cir. 1999); *Lucien v. Jockisch*, 133 F.3d 464, 467 (7th Cir. 1998). Moreover, because Plaintiff has “struck out,” this Court will not grant him permission to proceed *in forma pauperis* on appeal. Finally, if the appeal is found to be nonmeritorious, Plaintiff may also incur another “strike.”

Should Plaintiff attempt to file any new action in this Court, the Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED** to return any documents submitted in violation of this Order to Plaintiff unfiled.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the agency having custody of the Plaintiff **SHALL** remit the \$400.00 filing fee from his prison trust fund account if such funds are available. If he does not have \$400.00 in his account, the agency must send an initial payment of 20% of the current balance or the average balance during the past six months, whichever amount is higher. Thereafter, Plaintiff shall make monthly payments of 20% of the preceding month's income credited to Plaintiff's prison trust fund account until the \$400.00 filing fee is paid in full. The agency having custody of Plaintiff shall forward these payments from the Plaintiff's trust fund account to the Clerk of this Court each time the Plaintiff's account exceeds \$10.00, until the \$400.00 fee is paid. Payments shall be mailed to: Clerk of the Court, United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, 750 Missouri Ave., East St. Louis, Illinois 62202. The Clerk is **DIRECTED** to mail a

copy of this order to the Trust Fund Officer at the Western Illinois Correctional Center upon entry of this Order.

This case is **DISMISSED with prejudice**. Plaintiff's pending Motion for Subpoena (Doc. 4) is **DENIED** as moot, and his Motion to Show Cause (Doc. 7) is **DENIED**. The Clerk's Office is **DIRECTED** to close this case and enter judgment accordingly.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Judge Herndon
2018.04.10
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United States District Judge